

SCOPE

Santa Clarita Organization for Planning the Environment

TO PROMOTE, PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY
AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

POST OFFICE BOX 1182, CANYON COUNTRY, CA 91386



3-28-03

Ms. Dolores Brown
Chief, Mitigation and Restoration Branch
Dept. of Water Resources
3251 S Street
Sacramento, Ca. 95816

Re: *Notice of Preparation for New Monterey Agreement EIR*

Dear Ms. Brown:

SCOPE was founded in 1987 by a group of residents that wanted to ensure adequate infrastructure accompanied development approvals. In the early 90s we addressed school over-crowding and library facilities. By the late 90s our concern had turned to the adequacy of water to supply required by the inordinate amount of new growth approved in our valley. We hope that this process will help put a stop to the mis-information disseminated locally in environmental documents. We request that we receive all environmental documents and notification.

We have been very concerned about the over-statement of state water supplies and hope you will address this issue through an analysis of article 18(a) and 18(b) and surplus water (article 21). We have litigated on this issue of properly reporting water supplies in Environmental Impact Reports, recently winning a strong opinion from the 2nd Appellate Court (*SCOPE v. Los Angeles County*).

We request that you also address the issue of the growth-inducing impacts and the conversely linked issue of loss of farm land seemingly promoted by water transfers.

Lastly, we would like to express a grave concern over the potential privatization and ensuing control, hoarding and manipulation of public water resources that may result from the Kern Fan water bank being 48% privately held. We are already seeing this occur in the Newhall Ranch Project where a private developer has purchased Kern River water and stored it in its private holding in the Semi-Tropic Storage Facility to serve ONLY ITS OWN PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT. This water is being channeled to new development in spite of a spreading ammonium perchlorate pollution plume in the local ground water aquifer that serves current residents. Such water hoarding must not be permitted. Please address these issues in the EIR.

Thank-you for your time.

Sincerely,

Pat Salefore

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